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ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report was prepared in pursuance of paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 51/81 of 12 December 1996, with a view to supplementing the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997 (E/1997/87). The response of the Secretary-General to the request contained in paragraph 14 of resolution 1997/74 of the Commission on Human Rights[1] will be circulated as an addendum to the present report.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Economic and Social Council

2. At its substantive session of 1997, the Economic and Social Council discussed the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, 1993-2003, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 49/146 of 23 December 1994. By decision 1997/293 of 18 April 1997, the Council endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights[2] to recommend to the General Assembly the convening of a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, whose main objectives should be:

(a) To review the progress made in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, particularly since the

adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to reappraise the obstacles to further progress in the field and ways to overcome them;

(b) To consider ways and means better to ensure the application of existing standards and the implementation of the existing instruments to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(c) To increase the level of awareness about the scourge of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(d) To formulate concrete recommendations on ways to increase the effectiveness of the activities and mechanisms of the United Nations through programmes aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(e) To review the political, historical, economic, social, cultural and any other factors leading to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(f) To formulate concrete recommendations to further action-oriented national, regional and international measures to combat all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(g) To draw up concrete recommendations for ensuring that the United Nations has the financial and other necessary resources for its action to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

3. The Council also endorsed the Commission's recommendations to the General Assembly:

(a) That the world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance be convened not later than the year 2001;

(b) That when deciding on the agenda of the world conference it take into consideration, inter alia, the need to address in a comprehensive manner all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related contemporary forms of intolerance;

(c) That the world conference be action-oriented and focus on practical measures to eradicate racism, including through measures of prevention, education and protection and the provision of effective remedies, taking into full consideration the existing human rights instruments;

(d) That it decide that the Commission on Human Rights should act as the preparatory committee for the world conference and that its deliberations should be open-ended, allowing for the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations, members of specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with established practice;

(e) That it request Governments, the specialized agencies, other international organizations, concerned United Nations bodies, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights, the

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and other human rights mechanisms to assist the preparatory committee and to undertake reviews and submit recommendations concerning the conference and the preparations therefor to the preparatory committee through the Secretary-General and to participate actively in the conference;

(f) That it call upon States and regional organizations to hold national or regional meetings or to take other initiatives in preparation for the world conference;

(g) That it request regional preparatory meetings to submit reports to the preparatory committee, through the Secretary-General, on the outcome of their deliberations, including practical and action-oriented recommendations to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The Council approved the Commission's recommendation that the world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance be conducted effectively and efficiently and that its size, duration and other cost factors be determined with due regard for economy.

B. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

4. At its fifty-first session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination took note of the progress that had been made on the joint working paper on article 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.[3] That paper was being prepared jointly by two members of the Committee, Mr. Ivan Garvalov and Mrs. Shanti Sadiq Ali, and two members of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Mr. José Bengoa and Mr. Mustafa Mehedi. The Committee expressed its appreciation particularly to Mr. Garvalov and Mrs. Sadiq Ali, who had prepared preliminary contributions for consideration by the four experts. Those efforts had significantly advanced the work of the four experts and laid the basis for the joint paper to be completed and submitted in August 1998 to both the Committee and the Subcommission.

C. Forthcoming seminar on the role of the Internet with regard to the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

5. In accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 51/81, in which the Assembly recommended that a seminar be organized by the Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and Internet service providers, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is planning a seminar on the role of the Internet with regard to the provisions

of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

6. The purpose of the seminar, which will take place at Geneva from 10 to 14 November 1997, is to assess the role of the Internet in the light of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The tentative agenda for the seminar includes the following topics:

(a) Racism and racial discrimination on the Internet;

(b) Technical aspects of screening racist propaganda on the Internet:

(i) National measures;

(ii) International measures;

(c) Prohibition of racist propaganda on the Internet - juridical aspects:

(i) National measures;

(ii) International measures;

(d) Elements for an eventual code of conduct and good practice for displaying material on the Internet;

(e) Recommendations.

D. Status of the Trust Fund for the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

7. In paragraph 23 of its resolution 51/81, the General Assembly strongly appealed to all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and to that end requested the Secretary-General to continue to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions.

8. The Trust Fund is a continuation of that established in 1973 by the General Assembly in application of paragraph 17 of the Programme of Action for the First Decade (General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex) and re-established in 1983 within the framework of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade (Assembly resolution 38/14, annex).

9. The contributions made by the international community to the Fund have remained below the levels hoped for. Very few of the activities planned for the period 1994-1997 were therefore carried out. In the light of the resources available, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will strive to the utmost to ensure that the forthcoming activities are carried out. The

current status of contributions to the Fund is reflected in the annex to the present report.

Notes

[1] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3 (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] Ibid., resolution 1997/74.

[3] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 18 (A/52/18), para. 669.

Annex

TRUST FUND FOR THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE THIRD DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Contributions received from Governments since the establishment of the Trust Fund, as at 30 September 1997*

(United States dollars)

Country	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Austria	-	1 000	-	-	-	-	-	5 000	-	-	-	-	
Bahamas	-	-	500	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bangladesh	-	-	1 000	-	-	-	-	448.85	-	-	-	-	
Belgium	1 500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cameroon	-	2 711	-	-	906	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Canada	-	2 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
China	-	-	10 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Denmark	8 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dominica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 993	2 002	-	-	-	
Finland	5 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Germany	4 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
India	-	-	10 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	2 500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Italy	-	4 000	-	10 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Jamaica	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Japan	-	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	-	10 000	10 000	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-	-	-	-	10 000	-	-	-	6 000	-	-	-	
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 934	-	-	-	-	-	
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	
Netherlands	-	5 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 000			
Norway	10 000	10 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73 332	78 762	78 762	

* Based on information available at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Country	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Republic of Korea	-	-	-	-	3 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 000	-	-	-	-	
Spain	1 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Swaziland	-	-	-	-	760	-	-	-	-				
Sweden	5 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 997	-	
Syrian Arab Republic	-	-	1 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 000	-				
Tunisia	-	-	-	-	-	2 000	-	-	2 000	-	-	-	
Total	34 500	34 711	37 500	20 500	27 666	12 000	15 934	24 441.85	20 002	75 332	96 759	88 762	